

## American Indian and Total Population for Blackfeet Reservation and Related Areas

Geography	American Indian Population						
	Census	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Blackfeet Reservation	8,507	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Glacier County	8,186	8,069	8,223	8,319	8,452	8,573	
Browning	964	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
East Glacier Park Village CDP*	205	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
North Browning CDP*	2,062	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
South Browning CDP*	1,583	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Starr School CDP*	241	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Pondera County	929	952	943	929	954	986	
Heart Butte CDP*	654	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Total Population							
Geography	Census	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Blackfeet Reservation	10,100	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Glacier County	13,247	13,129	13,203	13,291	13,527	13,552	
Browning	1,065	1,056	1,061	1,068	1,085	1,078	
East Glacier Park Village CDP*	396	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
North Browning CDP*	2,200	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
South Browning CDP*	1,677	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Starr School CDP*	248	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Pondera County	6,424	6,358	6,257	6,193	6,108	6,087	
Heart Butte CDP*	698	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

n/a = Not available

\*Census designated places (CDPs) are delineated for each decennial census as the statistical counterparts of incorporated places. CDPs are delineated to provide data for settled concentrations of population that are identifiable by name but are not legally incorporated under the laws of the state in which they are located. The boundaries usually are defined in cooperation with local and tribal officials. These boundaries, which usually coincide with visible features or the boundary of an adjacent incorporated place or other legal entity boundary, have no legal status, nor do these places have officials elected to serve traditional municipal functions.

## Blackfeet Reservation Information

**Tribe:** Blackfeet

**Tribe Address:**

Blackfeet Business Council  
P.O. Box 850  
Browning, MT 59417  
406-338-7276  
[www.blackfeetnation.com](http://www.blackfeetnation.com)



Tribal Chairman  
Earl Old Person



Governor  
Brian Schweitzer

**Blackfeet Community College:**  
P.O. Box 819  
Browning, MT 59417  
1-800-549-7457  
[www.bfcc.org](http://www.bfcc.org)



photo courtesy of Donnie Sexton, Travel Montana

## Demographic & Economic Information for Blackfeet Reservation



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Montana Department of Commerce  
P. O. Box 200505, Helena, MT 59620-0505  
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Research & Analysis Bureau  
Montana Department of Labor & Industry  
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State Tribal Economic Development Commission  
Governor's Office of Indian Affairs  
State Capitol  
Helena, MT 59620-0801  
Have questions or comments? Please contact Tyler Turner at (406) 444-2992

# Blackfeet Reservation

The Blackfeet Reservation, headquartered in Browning, is the third largest reservation in Montana, encompassing 1.5 million acres. It lies along the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains on the Canadian border, and is the eastern gateway to Glacier National Park. Home to 56% of the enrolled 16,000 Blackfeet tribal members, the reservation's economy is primarily agriculture based.

The Tribe owns and operates seven profitable tribal farms and ranches and manages the very successful Blackfeet Bison Program. Fifty-six percent of the ag producers are Blackfeet members (Blackfeet Agricultural Department records). The income generated from production is used primarily to support public services and community and cultural events. The Blackfeet Tribal government is the largest employer, providing work to approx. 800, with seasonal injections of up to 150 additional positions. Other major employers include Browning Public Schools (which provides 388 jobs), Siyeh Development Corp (five businesses with 314 staff), Indian Health Service (230), Bureau of Indian Affairs (61), Blackfeet Housing Authority (100), and Blackfeet Community College (81). The newly created gaming establishment Glacier Peaks created 294 jobs when its doors opened in September 2006. The private sector hosts 61 businesses in the community, of which 81% are Indian owned. Teeple's IGA provides work for 49 employees, making them the largest private employer in Browning.

The Tribe, in partnership with utility corporations, is embarking upon renewable energy development. With a recent grant from the Department of Energy, a wind farm is in the planning phase. Additionally, collaborative partnerships are pivotal in the development of two new ventures: Manpower (a successful trainer of Indian FEMA emergency response teams) and Glacier County Port Authority (currently in development discussions).

According to the most recent BIA labor force report, 35% of the Tribe's enrolled members are below the age of 18. To attract and retain the Tribe's youthful population, the Blackfeet Community College initiated online services with MSU Northern, UM Missoula, and the University of Great Falls to offer baccalaureate degrees in education (teacher training program) and Native American studies, and Blackfeet bi-lingual training (Indian Education for All compliance). Construction of a new high school is now underway, since receiving \$12 million from the Board of Trustees through their creation of a building reserve fund, mill levy and bond issues.

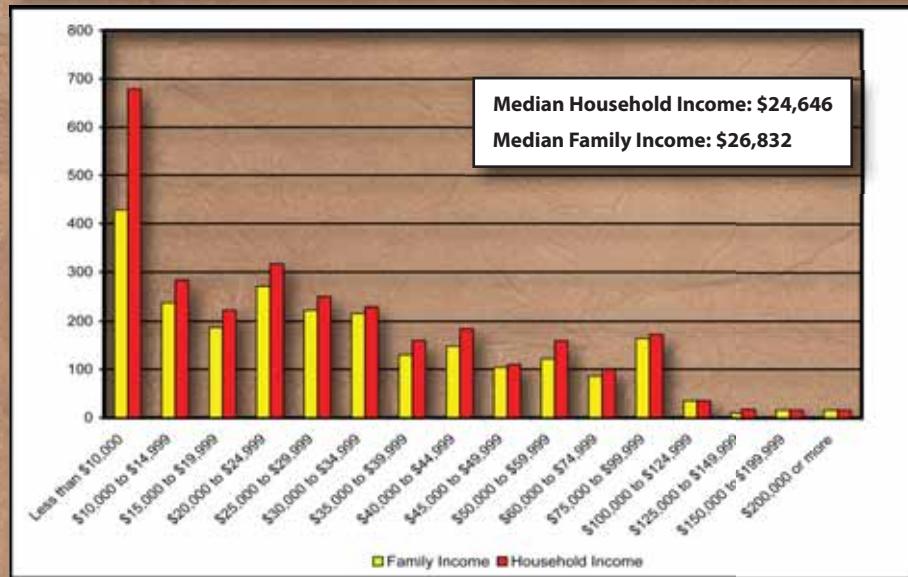
*Author: Michelle Robinson, DLI Commissioner's Office*

## Blackfeet Reservation - Agricultural Statistics 2002 Census of Agriculture

	All Farms	Farms Operated by American Indians
<b>Farms</b>		
Farms: (number)	354	198
Land in farms (acres)	1,602,499	957,487
Average size of farms (acres)	4,527	4,836
<b>Farms by size: (number)</b>		
Less than 1,000 acres	125	86
1,000 acres or more	229	112
<b>Farms by value of products sold and government payments received: (number)</b>		
Less than \$100,000	259	175
\$100,000 or more	95	23
<b>Farms by type of organization: (number)</b>		
Family, Individual, Partnership	308	184
Corporation, Cooperative, Trust	46	14
<b>Livestock Inventory and Crops Harvested</b>		
<b>Livestock and Poultry Inventory (number)</b>		
Cattle and calves	42,318	21,781
Hogs and pigs	17,518	(D)
Sheep and lambs	290	(D)
Horses and ponies	2,995	2,313
Bison	(D)	(D)
Chickens (layers and broilers)	25,934	48
<b>Crops Harvested (acres)</b>		
Corn for grain	-	-
Corn for silage or greenchop	-	-
Wheat for grain, All	113,100	7,582
Winter wheat for grain	(D)	-
Durum wheat for grain	(D)	(D)
Spring wheat for grain	103,032	(D)
Barley for grain	87,349	11,679
Oats for grain	650	180
Sunflower seed, All	-	-
Soybeans for beans	-	-
Hay, haylage, grass silage	43,782	18,811
<b>Operator Demographics</b>		
<b>Primary occupation: (number)</b>		
Farming	400	164
Other	184	98
<b>Place of residence: (number)</b>		
On farm operated	470	227
Not on farm operated	114	35
<b>Years on present farm: (number)</b>		
Less than 10 years	141	63
10 years or more	443	199
<b>Age group: (number)</b>		
Under 55 years	360	168
55 years and over	224	94
<b>Average age of operators: (number)</b>		
(D): Not Disclosable	50.7	50.0

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service

## Blackfeet Reservation - Distribution of Income by Family and Household from Census 2000



**Household Income:** This includes the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not. Because many households consist of only one person, average household income is usually less than average family income.

**Family Income:** In compiling statistics on family income, the incomes of all members 15 years old and over related to the householder are summed and treated as a single amount.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

## Blackfeet Reservation - Educational Attainment Population 25 Years and Older

Educational Attainment	Total	American Indian
High School Diploma (or equivalent)	24.7%	26.0%
Associate Degree	11.1%	12.2%
Bachelor's Degree	8.0%	5.3%
Master's Degree	4.1%	2.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

## Owner and Renter Occupied Housing Units

Housing	Total	American Indian
Owner Occupied	55.2%	54.7%
Renter Occupied	44.8%	45.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

## Blackfeet Reservation - Labor Force Statistics

The table below provides labor force statistics from three separate sources. The reader will notice some of the numbers are dissimilar, owing to the differing definitions and statistical techniques used by each source. These differences are explained below:

### Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS):

- Statistics represent labor characteristics of the reservation, not the tribe.
- Unemployment rates produced by MT Department of Labor
- Labor Force definition
  - Civilian, non-institutional population 16 years and older
  - The sum of Employment and Unemployment
- Employment definition
  - Did any work as paid employees
  - Worked in their own business, profession, or farm
  - Worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in a family owned enterprise
- Unemployment definition
  - Have not worked during monthly survey period (usually the week containing the 12th of the month)
  - Available for work
  - Actively seeking a job during last four weeks
- Unemployment Rate definition
  - Equal to the number of Unemployed divided by number in the Labor Force

### U.S. Census Bureau:

- Statistics represent labor characteristics of the reservation, not the tribe.
- Uses the same definitions for Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment as BLS
- Self-reported every ten years
- Rate reflects employment status as of April 1st, 2000

### Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA):

- Statistics represent labor characteristics of the tribe, not the reservation.
- Labor Force definition
  - Number of tribal members between 16 and 64 years old
  - Available for work
  - Not disabled or incarcerated
- Employment definition
  - Tribal members working for money
- Unemployment definition
  - Calculated by subtracting Employment from Labor Force

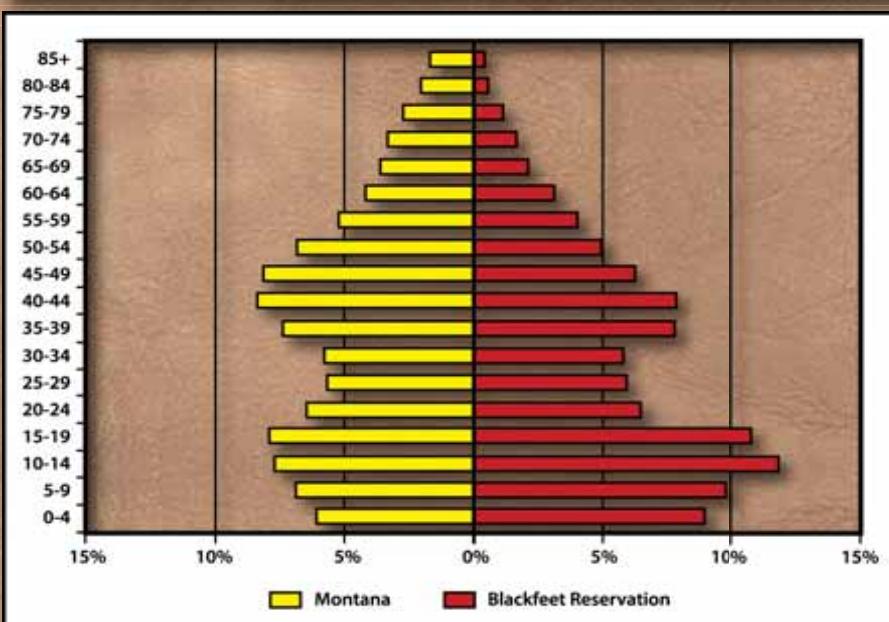
	Year	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemp. Rate
Montana Department of Labor and Industry	2005	4,287	3,631	656	15.3%
U.S. Census Bureau	2000	4,064	3,148	918	22.6%
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs	2005	5,478	1,725	3,753	68.5%

## Blackfeet Reservation - Occupation by Gender Employed Civilian Population 16 Years and Over

Occupation	Total	American Indian
<b>Total:</b>	3,146	2,368
<b>Male:</b>	1,581	1,179
Management, professional, and related occupations	541	329
Service occupations	256	231
Sales and office occupations	155	123
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	121	61
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	322	267
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	186	168
<b>Female:</b>	1,565	1,189
Management, professional, and related occupations	708	465
Service occupations	345	287
Sales and office occupations	453	407
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	6	0
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	15	6
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	38	24

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

## Blackfeet Reservation - Population Pyramid Percent of Total Reservation Population by Age Group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

## Blackfeet Wage & Salary Employment Annual Averages 2005

Industry	Average Employment	Average Annual Wages Per Job
<b>Total</b>	2,331	\$28,037
<b>Total Private</b>	543	\$17,966
<b>Goods Producing</b>	67	\$25,837
<b>Mining</b>	37	\$29,031
<b>Support Activities for Mining</b>	37	\$29,031
<b>Service Providing</b>	475	\$16,849
<b>Trade, Transportation, and Utilities</b>	158	\$16,204
<b>Retail Trade</b>	154	\$15,667
<b>Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers</b>	11	\$18,670
<b>Food and Beverage Stores</b>	70	\$19,861
<b>Education and Health Services</b>	32	\$17,167
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	161	\$18,094
<b>Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation</b>	3	\$18,310
<b>Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation Industries</b>	3	\$18,310
<b>Accomodation and Food Services</b>	158	\$18,089
<b>Other Services</b>	12	\$9,204
<b>Total Government</b>	1,789	\$31,092
<b>Federal Government</b>	383	\$50,700
<b>Local Government</b>	1,405	\$25,743
<b>Local Government Education</b>	635	\$28,917
<b>Local Government Non-Education</b>	770	\$23,126

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Note: This data is based on the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) series which compiles data reported by all employers covered under Montana unemployment insurance. Some sectors are not shown to preserve confidentiality of individual businesses